

Country Gender Profile: Iraq

July 2012

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

EI
JR
12-256

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1. Basic profiles

1-1 Socio-Economic Profile¹

Socio-economic profile							Ref
Social indicators							
<u>International development indicators</u>		Human development index		Gender-related development index		Gender empowerment measurement value	
		0.623		0.584		0.696	
<u>Demographic indicators</u>		Total population (millions)		% of urban population		Population growth rate (%)	
		33.2	49.8	69.2	49.1	2.9	4.3
		Life expectancy (years)		Households number by head of households (HH) (%)			
		Male	Female	Total	Male-headed	Female-headed	
		54.9	59.3	100	89	11	
Economic indicators							
		GNP/Capita (ID ²)	Growth rate of real GDP	Inflation rate Feb./2011-Feb./2012	Gini index	Aid/GNP (000) (ID)	
		4978616.7	5.6	5.7	39.9	79123.68	
<u>Public sector expenditure on sectors</u>		Health	Education	Social welfare	Defense	Gender	Others
		4.9%	2.7%	1.8%	27.2%	N/A	
		/GDP	/GDP	/GDP	/GDP	/GDP	/GDP
<u>Industry / GDP</u>		Agriculture	Industry	Service	Others		
		8.1%	2.9%	30.8%			
<u>Labour indicators</u>		Total No.		Unemployment rate		Minimum wage	
			% of female population		of female population	Male	Female
		N/A	49.1	8%	11%	150.000ID	150.000ID
<u>Employment rate (YEAR)</u>		Agriculture	Non-agriculture				
			Industry	Service	N/A	Others	
	Total	16.4%	5.8%	17.4%			
	% of female population	50.6	2.0	5.3			
Approaches to gender issues							
<u>Ratification and signature of international laws</u>							Year
Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)							1986
<u>Women in decision-making (% of female population)</u>							
	Government	In parliament	25	Public sector	Managers	86	
		Ministers	18.8		Technicians	215	

¹ Reference: Human Development Report (2008), Statistical yearbook of Iraq (2011), Gender statistics in brief (2011), and National Development Plan (2010- 2014)

² ID stands for Iraq Dinar

Socio-economic profile							Ref
		Deputy ministers	2.3		Consultant	33	
Policy of gender						Year	
	Creating development opportunities for women; will enabling the expansion of options available for her and provide her with humane environment characterized by justice and equity					2010-2014	

First: The Basic Profiles:

1. Socio-Economic Profile

The demographic growth in Iraq witnessed a rapid & continual development. This absolute demographic growth is a natural result of increase in population growth rate, which increased with a rate of 3.1% in the 1970's and 80's due to existence of an insistent desire by the government at that time. That government had encouraged increase in procreation by adopting a set of programs and procedures which aim to increase procreation through submitting the moral and financial privileges such as encouraging of early marriage, increasing of allowances of workers' families who were working the public sector and had more than four children. However this rate witnessed decline after 1991, whereas the official rates declared that the population growth rate in Iraq decreased to rate of 2.9%, influenced by the exceptional circumstances of Iraq. The total fertility rate in 1987 was 6.2, but it declined to 4.7 in 1993. The number of infant deaths in 1987 was 64.1, but it increased to 111.7 in 1994. The number of infant deaths in 1974 was 43 for each one thousand live births, but it decreased to 38 in 1994. Although Iraq had passed through a radical change stage after 2003, which affected the total fertility rate 4.3% in 2006, it was more than the world rate 2.6% (i.e. 65%). The infant mortality rate decreased in 2006 to 31 death births for each one thousand live births as per (MICS3) indicators, and also the infant deaths deceased to 35 in 2006.

The numbers of migration (emigrants and immigrants) also increased inside & outside Iraq, which became as per the International Immigration Organization estimations one fifth of Iraq population. Despite decline in the demographic indicators numbers after 2003, the population growth rate in Iraq had kept on at the rate of 2.9% on the middle and long-term, supported by increase in the birthrates and decrease in mortality rates through expansion of the remedial and protective services.

Sex ration in Iraq was stabilized in between 1970 and 2009. In 1987, the ratio of male was 51.4% while the ratio of female was 48.6%. These ratios had changed in 2009 to 50.2% for males and 49.8% for females

due to emigration happened in that time. Therefore, we see that the reason of emigration is a convincing reason of changing the sex ratio in Iraq after calamities of 2003.

While in the economic field, Iraq economy the proceeds of oil forms the center of gravity in the public budget movement of Iraqi state where it represents 92% from the total of revenues of the federal government. These revenues are subject completely to the world markets changes caused by prices and the world supply & demand. The finance and economic performance of Iraq are subject to the stability means of these revenues. The prices of oil had decreased to less than one third its levels due to the global financial conjuncture in July 2008, which was regarded as a great challenge before the government in that time. Iraq adopted a precautionary potential price for the Iraqi exported oil barrel for the purpose of calculating revenues of budget, which is regarded as a part of financial adaptation to face the external offer shocks and preventing them to influence on the financial political aims in order to achieve stability, development and distributive equity. Iraq had enjoyed its financial surpluses during the 1970's, which were overstepping limits of her capacity. The development's average of public revenues with the oil revenues amounted to 33% in that time. This increase was ascribed to the role of oil revenues, which their investment rates had increased from the total revenues of 40% in 1972 to 80% in 1974; and this refers to the importance of oil revenues as a source for financing development in Iraq. However this revenue source had met a great deterioration during the first gulf war in the 1980's, whereas this entire surplus had run out entirely and the average of total revenues has been decreased to 17%.

The nineties century witnessed an outward development in the public revenues' average and to become 97% between 1990 and 1995; this elevated average belongs to the borrowing policy in which the government had adopted and made the new issuance of paper money the unique means before the financial policy for financing the public expenses. This policy led to increase of the prices and the gap between the two variables of the public revenues and public expenses have been expanded, in which the real values of those revenues had vanished and their real role of financing has been suspended. The situation has not changed quite after 2003. Between 2003 and 2011, we noticed that there was a continual and spiraled increase in the public revenues. The oil revenues formed 92.9% of the total, therefore the development average has been increased to become 18.8%.

While the non-oil revenues have been decreased due to the stagnation of the economic activity in general which influenced the fruit of budget from the incoming revenues that did not exceed in the best situations 12.8%, as well as decreasing of revenues of customs due to releasing of external trade and acquitting of the imported materials from customs, such as importing of foodstuff & medicines and stopping of several public companies to perform their activities. In respect of the national income and average of individual income, we notice that the efforts have been made by the government in the seventies decade to achieve development, oil nationalizing & increasing of oil's prices which led to increase of the national income at the aforesaid decade. However this increase has been retreated during the eighties decade due to the first gulf war and stopping of the Iraqi oil's exports; but it increased again in 2000 and dipped in 2003 due to the American invasion. The rocking of national income values between the increasing & decreasing during the last decades had influenced on the individual's income average clearly. The rates of economical sectors' participation had varied in producing of the total local yield across the development's operation. But this variation had been accompanied by the sectors of oil & mining, which took the first place in generating of the total local yield, with the swaying of increasing rates that connected with the unstable external & internal economical & political circumstances of the Iraqi economy. We conclude from this that the oil sector took the first place in the Iraqi economy which its rate became 59.9% in 2003 & 83.8% in 2010; and this indicates that the oil sector dominates on the industrial & agricultural sectors which their rates had retreated to become 8.1% & 2.9% respectively.

1-2 Health Profile³

Health Indicators							Ref.	
Prevalence of health services	No. of Hospital beds per 1,000 persons		No. of physicians per 1,000 persons					
	1.3		0.7					
Infant mortality rate	Total		35 per 1,000		Female	32 per 1,000		
Under-five mortality rate	Total		41 per 1,000 births		Female	37 per 1,000 births		
Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis	Total		12.4 per 100,000		Female	NA		
Prevalence and death rates associated with infectious diseases	Total		1.33 per 100,000		Female	NA		
% of vaccinated (1 year old)	BCG	DPT	Polio	Measles				
	91	82.4	88	87				
Reproductive health	Contraceptive prevalence rate		Rate of births attended by trained personnel		Anemia prevalence among pregnant women			
	33%		89%		NA			
	Maternal mortality ratio		Total fertility rate		Average age of first marriage			
	84 per 100,000 life births		4.3		24 for male 22.4 for female			
Nutrition	Children under weight for age (& aged under 5) rate		Oral rehydration therapy use rate		Iodine deficiency rate			
	7.6		30.7		34			
Community health service	Access to safe water			Access to adequate sanitation				
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural		
	83.7	97.5	50.3	83.9	89.6	70.3		
HIV/AIDS (%)	HIV prevalence					% of population aged with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS		13
	Total	Male	Female		Pregnant women	Male	Female	
	5	3	2			NA	NA	

2. Health Profile:

The health system in Iraq consists of all remedial and protective institutions, including procreation health centers, School clinics, Mobile and fixed health centers, labs, medicines factories and others, which have a direct and indirect relationship with the citizen.

The Iraq health system depends on the primary health care as a fundamental base, which includes health services according to quality

³ Reference: Statistical yearbook of Iraq (2011) and National Development Plan (2010- 2014)

standards, as it is considered as the first services level provided to the Iraqi citizen. The second services level includes the public hospitals, while the third one includes the specialized centers through applying family medicine system in the health centers that provide services of monitoring and checking women and children. These services also are provided by maternity hospitals.

Iraq faced great health risks due to the wars and economic blockade. The technical, financial and human capacity of the health sector had been deteriorated due to the environmental deterioration, collapsing of infrastructures as well as decreasing of the economic abilities of the Iraqi citizens. All these factors led together to increase mortality rate, deteriorate health services, and more financial and psychological burden on the Iraqi citizens.

Although some achievements had been made during last few years, the health sector still faces many problems & challenges due to the exceptional circumstances. The health situations of people had been reflected negatively on activity & productivity of workers' power. The health system in Iraq suffered from a great deficit in financing which reflected directly on the nature of the provided services and lack of medical supplies as well as low occupancy rates of beds in hospitals which amounts to 65% from its capacity; beside other challenges related to not using information technology in the medical issues.

Its central directions characterized most of the plans and strategies before 2003 in the planning and implementation. The governmental sector remained the dominated sector during the last decades along with marginalizing of the role of the private sector. The Ministry of Health remained the main and unique provider of health services. The role of primary health care centers was very weak in comparison with the role of public hospitals and did not achieve the required aims due to unavailability of enough requirements, because of the wars and crises.

Iraq witnessed increase in averages of infection with the un-transitional diseases such as cardiac diseases and diabetes as well as increasing of pollution resulted in spreading of cancer diseases. The health services levels which had been provided to the citizens registered a retreat (quantitatively and qualitatively) due to reduction of expenses of health and weakness of the planning and unfair distribution to medical institutions and their workers in Baghdad and the other governorates.

Health in the national development plan (2010-2014):

The five years development plan of health sectors aims at building an integral and active system based on the public health fundamentals to ensure the health security of the state. This will be done by supporting public health

activities and primary health care in order to ensure decline in mortality and morbidity rates for all segments of society in general, and the mothers & children in particular which will ensure to reduce the spreading of transmissible and settled diseases.

Today, the health policies in Iraq aims to rebuild the health service systems in order to reduce the endemic diseases. These policies and programs will achieve the following objectives:

1. Reduce the average number of patients per doctor increase number of beds per population size, searching for equity in distributing the medical institutions between rural and urban and increase number of institutes which have specialized medical posts, and provide them by necessary appliances & requirements.
2. Expand and develop the current medical institutions
3. Construct advanced health institutions in all governorates to increase number of beds at the health offices
4. Expand the primary health care services through increasing number of health centers to cover the needs of health offices in Baghdad and other governorates
5. Increase number of specialized medical centers to cover the needs of governorates of specialized services (complicated surgeries, diagnoses and protection).

1-3 Education Profile⁴

Education Indicators								Ref.
Education systems								
Adult literacy rate	Total			Male		Female		
(15-24)	83.9				87.6		80.3	
Primary education								
Net enrolment rate	Total	91.7		Male	96.1	Female	87.2	
Progression rate	Total	80.5		Male	79.4	Female	81.8	
Drop-out rate	Total	2.5		Male	2.3	Female	2.8	
Secondary education								
Net enrolment rate	Total	41.7		Male	46.9	Female	36.3	
Progression rate	Total	69.3		Male	64.9	Female	75.6	
Drop-out rate	Total	3.2		Male	3.1	Female	3.4	
Higher education								
Net enrolment rate	Total	14.6		Male	15.9	Female	13.2	
Progression rate	Total	N/A		Male		Female		
Drop-out rate	Total			Male		Female		
Tertiary level enrolment by field of study by gender	Education	Arts	Social science	Engineering and Technology	Medicine	Others		
	Male	43.7	60.8	57.9	51.6	41.1		
	female	56.3	39.2	42.1	48.4	58.9		

3. Education Profile:

Since the establishment of Iraqi state in 1921, the private & government sectors have shared the task of providing and financing the educational services. However the spreading and growing the governmental role in the social and economic life in Iraq resulted from oil revenues which was considered as base of developing of the central state which was ensuring the public services. Since 1974 education system has become governmental completely especially after issuance of Free Education Law for all stages and obligatory in the primary education. The education system was a basic part of the governmental system and was connected with oil revenue which led to the reduction of governmental expenditure on the education system as well as lack of

⁴ Reference: Statistical yearbook of Iraq (2011) and National Development Plan (2010- 2014)

substantive standards which limit the ways, channels and flexibility of disbursement, in order to face fluctuation of financing size.

During 1970's and 1980's, the education system in Iraq witnessed a great development due to development of economic and financial performance. The rate of enrollment of students in the schools was 100% as well as the relative success of literacy campaign in that time. The subsequent fund resulted from oil's revenues had ensured a great financial coverage which enabled the education system to reduce the types of unemployment due to the society's quick response to education. However this situation did not continue for a long time due to the eight-year war with Iran which led to reducing revenue from oil exporting and that reflected on the educational sector where the educational budget has been reduced.

After 2003, according to the Iraqi constitution issued in 2005, the Iraqi state undertook to provide education's chances equally for all Iraqi people since it is a basic right of human rights supporting all mankind abilities and provides knowledge and skills to all Iraqi people and participate in building the Iraqi economy. The generalization of education will assist the development's operation; and it will be an active factor to gather all abilities because they are the main power which constitute the present & future of society, as well as it is one of the elements which assist to provide the necessary information, abilities, resources & chances, and participate to change the society for the better.

The Article No. 32 of Iraqi constitution stipulates the following principles:

- Education is a basic factor for advancing society and it is the right should be guaranteed by the state; and the primary education should be obligatory. The state ensures to struggle illiterate.
- The free education, in all stages, is a right for all Iraqi citizens.
- The state undertakes to encourage the scientific research for peaceful purposes for serving humanity; and it undertakes to develop superiority, creativity, invention and all genius shapes.
- The private education is ensured and will be organized by law.

The organizational management of education system in Iraq:

Since 1970, the education sector in Iraq has been managed by two ministries as follows;

The Ministry of Education, which runs the educational system of the following stages:

- Pre-primary stage (kindergartens); it is for two years and includes pupils of 4 to 5 years old and is not compulsory.
- The primary stage; it is a six-year scholastic stage (first primary stage to sixth primary stage) and includes students of 6 to 11 years old and is free and compulsory constitutionally.
- The secondary stage: it is for six years also (first intermediate class to sixth preparatory class) and includes following two stages:
 - Intermediate stage includes students of 12 to 14 years old: it is for three years (first intermediate class to third intermediate class).
 - Preparatory stage includes students of 15 to 17 years old: it is for three years (fourth preparatory class to sixth preparatory class) in which the student specializes in his study; there are two branches (either scientific study or literacy study) as well as another branch which is called vocational preparatory branch (the applied scientific study which consists of the industrial, agricultural, commercial, vocational and applied studies) as well as institutes of teachers' preparation (the educational study to prepare teachers of primary stage).

Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research, which runs the stage of higher education (colleges & institutes) for the students beyond preparatory stage, whom their ages between 19 and 24 years old, in order to obtain Diploma & Bachelors Degree. While the higher studies includes students with age of 25 years or older, for the purpose of obtaining the higher diploma, MSc. & PhD degrees in the scientific and human specializations as well as running of the centers and institutions of specialized scientific research.

The educational sector remained governmental system, since its establishing in the first half of twentieth century, until the nineties decade in which the government allowed to establish the private universities & colleges by private sector as per special standards and technically to be under the supervision of the ministry.

Currently, the higher education consists of 23 governmental universities, 238 governmental colleges, 27 private colleges, 27 technical institutes and 13 technical colleges distributed to all governorates. The

technical and administrative relationship between the ministry and universities are distinguishable as it has wide area of independency.

There is another education which is parallel to the education of Ministry of Education & Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research. This education follows other ministers, such as Ministries of Industry & Minerals, Health, and Transportation, as well as the technical education level in the Ministries of Justice, Oil, Industry, Tourism, Labor & Social affairs, besides the training courses which some time are far of direction of the academic & educational channels. These channels represent the training centers that subjects to the Ministries of Industry & Minerals, Transportation, Communications, and Health, as well as other training & cultural channels, which are held by the universities and the training centers of some ministries that aims to develop skills & knowledge of their employees in order to develop their abilities.

Education in the national development plan (2010-2014):

The vision of this plan seeks for achieving a real development which contributes to advance with scientific & educational level according to the following standards to ensure the quality:

- Establishing an educational system, which provides the basic of developing of the individual's abilities in order to achieve the continual development aims and create an environment that reinforces the values of citizenship.
- Adopting a wide approach of planning & financing operations of education & training.
- Putting suitable legislations for the sectors of education, strategic plans & basic services for schools, institutes, universities and centers of services relating to teachers.
- Reinforcing & strengthening system of educational information management.
- Develop the early childhood education & technology of communications and information.
- Encouraging the private sector to invest in the educational sector under supervision of the public sector.
- Commencement to reform approaches to develop the relevant skills. The private sector can play an active role to build the approaches in order to ensure their development according to requirements of labour market.

- Carrying out the balance between education and labour market.

Secondly: The overall situation of Iraqi women:

The woman's issue formed one of the important variables in the texture of Iraqi society after sequence of crises which left direct & indirect traces on the family's institution and woman especially. The cultural and social factors as well as lack of woman's education and decreasing of their scientific level led to decline job opportunities for women.

The unsafe environment affected on the freedom of women negatively and led them aside from the public life, despite of continual effort of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), center of researches, the press, and supporting of several international organizations about enlightenment and defining of equality between the two genders. There is still a clear defect in enlightenment of society towards women.

Since its establishment, the Iraqi government was keen to provide job opportunities to the Iraqi women in its institutions such as education, health, centers of training and others. However it was neglected, intentionally or unintentionally, due to the reality of discriminative culture and building of culture of equality.

1. The general situation of Iraqi people:

The life expectancy rate of Iraqi people is estimated as 52.2 years old, while in the 1980's, it was more than 65 years old. It means that there was a human development. The second element of human development was the education, which showed that the average of people who were literate was 83.9%. Moreover the percentage of people who joined primary, secondary, and higher schools was 81.5%. However, illiteracy rate has still been the same for several decades despite of adopting the policy of literacy and obligatory of primary education since the 1970's. The third element of measuring the human development was the per capita from GDP which amounted to 4,255 US dollars in 2011, which was less than the per capita from GDP of oil-producing countries. The gender index in Iraq amounted to 0.584 in 2008 which is less than human development index was 0.623.

The gender equality is regarded as one of the important indicators which show the extent of society's progress, while the gender inequality in the different activities reflects one of the indicators of male society,

which does not allow the women to practice economic and social activities. The gender inequality dominates on most of the Arabic societies but with different levels, while the gap of variation between males & females is narrow in the mentioned activities in the advanced societies. Education is regarded as one of the important fields which show that variation, where it appeared that the rate of joining males in comparison to the females to the education has been decreased upon transition from the preliminary stage to the secondary stage. The enrolment rate of females to the primary education is 87.2% while it is 36.3% to the secondary education.

2. Gender policies in Iraq:

These policies seek to prepare opportunities enabling and financing women and expand the available options for women and build their capacity as well as ensure a human environment for them which characterized as equity & equality through:

- Amending laws & constitution and granting opportunities to change laws which dedicate discrimination policy.
- Confronting traditions of domination and marginalization by spreading peace & leniency to limit violence phenomenon against woman.
- Confirming work's environment which grants opportunity of reviewing of work's distributing based on reduction of woman's role and limiting her activities in sectors which have weak productivity.
- Abiding by the obligatory education which provides opportunity of stopping deterioration of joining with education.
- Reforming education curricula & systems which grant opportunity of changing view of society against woman's discrimination.
- Making qualitative changes in culture of discrimination based on gender. These changes require fast efforts in many fields, done by bodies able to affect on people's views.
- Adopting a national strategy which encourages equity between the two genders (male & female) and decreasing of different levels between governorates and city & countryside on the other hand.
- Reforming legal & economic institutions to achieve evenness in rights and opportunities for men & women (laws of family, protection from violence, real estate's ownership rights, employment, political rights, and inheritance).

3. The national mechanism of gender:

The bodies, which adopt subject of gender in all fields, are as follows:

Ministry of State for Women affairs:

This ministry has been established on the 1st June 2011. The purpose of establishing this ministry is to advance Iraqi women's right and to carry out the following missions:

1. Empower women at all levels
2. Provide more attention to elections & electoral media for women's participation in the political operation.
3. Work towards equality between male and female (gender equality) through providing training courses & media by coordination with all ministries and by support of the UN and other international organizations.
4. Propose development projects in the field of education, health & economy and submit them to donor countries.
5. Organize conferences on the Iraqi constitution and woman in the constitution.
6. Prepare cadres to review laws related to woman as well as focusing on the unjust laws concerning woman.
7. Encourage and support donor organizations to open training courses for the women organizations about managing these societies and enabling them administratively and through media by using the political speech in their advantage.
8. Make a publication related to woman's affairs.
9. Support construction of economic & social centers in the Iraqi governorates.
10. Coordinating the ministries in the fields related to gender (the social type).

There are also other ministries & institutions work to support women's affairs; and they are as follows:

- Woman's care office/ Secretariat of Ministers Council works to provide the social protection to women, widows, divorced women, and the handicapped women who have no breadwinner.
- Ministry of Health / the primary health care office have interests in affairs related to procreation health.
- Ministry of Human Rights has interests in affairs related to anti-discrimination and violence against women.

- Ministry of Youths & Sport provides forums, and social & cultural recreational centers for young women.
- Diywans (secretariats) of Religious Endowments provides the social care for widows & divorced women.
- Governorates' councils provide health, cultural, and social services for women.
- Ministry of Culture provides the cultural services for women.
- Ministry of Education provides the educational services for women.
- Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research provides the educational services for women.
- Ministry of Immigration & Immigrants provides the incorporeal and financial care for migrated woman inside & outside Iraq.
- Ministry of Finance provides the social insurance, subsidies, and pension salaries for woman.
- Ministry of Planning / The Central Statistical Organization conducts statistical surveys related to gender
- Ministry of Planning / General Directorate of Human Development formalizes the national policies related to gender in the development plans.
- The Civil Society Organizations takes an interest in women & their issues.

4. Iraqi women in decision-making centers

The quota system achieved an important contribution to women in the political life through the positive discrimination. Undoubtedly the parties have been obligated by quota system which reflected a great contribution to women in the elections of governorates' councils. A woman has not been represented suitably before 2003. Women were absent from decision-making process. Women's political participation issue has been addressed strongly after the falling of the previous regime.

In the mentioned year, three women, from 25 members in the governance's council has been nominated. In the temporary Iraqi government in 2004, six women have been appointed as ministers, but no woman has been appointed as a governor or deputy governor except in Kurdistan Region.

Moreover the number of women's representation in the parliament is very limited, especially in the parliamentary committees, where there are only 4 women headed committees out of 26 and they are committee of woman, family, and childhood affairs, committee of health & environment,

committee of civil society, and committee of members and development of parliament.

The Ministry of Woman's Affairs did not take its role due to lack of its funds and staff shortage. Some of politicians see that the existence of this Ministry led the woman's issues separate instead of incorporating them, as well as that there is not any party headed by woman or to be one of its leaderships.

The representation of woman in the governorates' councils as per quota system was not passive due to quota system achieved and exceeded the number of 9 governorates from 15 governorates and the total members in the governorates' councils was 110 members from 440 members, and thereby, the determined rate (25%) has been achieved legally. Within the formed government in 2006, woman officers occupied 6 ministerial positions represented by (Ministry of Human Rights, Ministry of Construction & Housing, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of State for Governorates' Affairs and Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs). This representation forms 12% from the total state's ministries which amount to 36 ministries. While in the formed government in 2010, which was composed of 46 ministries; the woman occupies only one ministry (Ministry of Women). Women in Kurdistan regional government, two women occupy Ministry of Labor and Ministry of Woman Affairs respectively. Despite that any women did not occupy any sovereignty Ministry, but what happened is regarded as a positive indicator to engage woman in drawing the public policy. The number of women, who work in decision making centers in the governmental sector, amounts to 343 women who occupy position of Director General, experts, assistants of general manager, and consultants. The rate of women who occupies position of minister does not exceed 2%.

Before 2003, the women could not join the higher judicial institute and it was for males exclusively. Later, the door was opened for qualified women to join this institute managed by a woman. Many women judges graduated from this institute, who works in the civil courts, but not the legislative and criminal courts. The rate of women who occupies position of judge amounts to 5%.

As previously mentioned, it becomes clear that the participation of women in decision making centers is still finite in the high administrative positions due to discrimination against woman. Therefore, female officer has been absented inside the three presidential bodies (Presidency's Council, Ministerial Council Presidency & Parliament Presidency), higher judicial

council, and supreme courts (the Federal Supreme Court & the Federal Appeals Court).

5. Woman in the Iraqi legislations:

The Iraqi constitution admitted the equity principle between man and woman as follows:

- **Second chapter - First section - Article No. 25 from constitution** states that citizens, whether men or women, have the right of participating and enjoying the political rights such as voting, election and nomination.
- **Second chapter - First section - Article No. 25** states that the state warrants the social and health insurance, the basic elements for living, and insuring the suitable income and residence for individual and family, especially children.
- **Second chapter - Second section - Article No. 37 - third** states that prohibits forced-labor, slavery, women trafficking, children and sex trafficking
- **Third chapter - First section - Article No. 49 – Fourth** states that the law of elections aims at achieving rate of women's representation provided not to be less than quarter of total parliament's members. The age of the voted woman should not be less than 18 years old.

The constitution & women rights in work:

First chapter - Article No. 22 states that the working is a right of each Iraqi citizen which ensures dignified life for them. The Law of civil workers in the state confessed the equality between men & women in the functional rights & duties and salaries & wages. The law confessed also some private rules for woman in the form that achieves the constitutional obligation which ensures the woman's work beside her duties towards her family.

Article No. 43 from the Civil Service Law No. 24, amended; states that,

- 1- The pregnant employed woman deserves maternity leave of 72 days with full salary.
- 2- The employed woman can enjoy a maternity leave for six months with full salary, and another leave for six months but without salary. This leave is regarded as a duty for the purposes of Civil Service Law.

The constitution & human rights;

Second chapter - Second section - Article No. 14 of constitution states that the Iraqi citizens are equal before the law without any discrimination due to gender, descent, nationalism, color, religion, faith, ideology, opinion, or the economic & social status.

Second chapter - Second section - Article No. 18 states that the Iraqi citizen is anybody who has been born of Iraqi father and mother. The Iraqi nationality is right of each Iraqi citizen and is regarded as basic for his citizenship.

Woman in the Personal Status Law:

The Personal status Law, related to woman, consists of some of the below-mentioned provisions which achieve the family and psychological stability for her and preserve her glory:

- **Article No. 40** states that the wife has the right of divorce if she has been prejudiced financially due to that matter.
- **Article No. 57** states that the mother is entitled to foster and take care of her child / children
- **Law No. 188 - Second Chapter - Article No. 23** states that if the husband has divorced his wife, she is entitled to demand alimony.

Woman in the Criminal Law:

In this respect, the Iraqi legislator subscribed some provisions to take care of the sentenced woman:

Article No. 80 states that the charged woman should be searched only by the womanly element.

Article No. 287 states that the attorney general is entitled to postpone the performance of restricted punishment for pregnant woman's freedom in the sixth month beyond four months from birth; and the same thing will be applied to the woman who is sentenced by capital punishment as per the Law of Penal Procedures No. 23 for the year 1971.

The other laws which targeted for the Iraqi woman are as follows:

- 1- Law of Labor No. 71 for the year 1987.
- 2- Law of Minors' Auspices No. 78 for the year 1980.
- 3- Law of Social Care No. 126 for the year 1980.
- 4- Law of Civil Service No. 24, amended, / Article No. 44.
- 5- Law of Penal Procedures No. 23 for the year 1971.

Third: The current situation of woman as per sector:

1. The general situation of woman in education sector:

The matter of females' education occupies a special importance in the educational policy for several considerations which springs from the importance of raising the scientific level of woman (quantitatively and qualitatively). The females' education has been developed somewhat especially after carrying out of obligatory education, which gave a new insight for her participation to the educational system. In most of Iraq's areas, we realize that the females did not obtain the same opportunities of education in all levels, as it happened to the males. The female school enrolment rate is low (43%) from the total of students in all educational levels due to some traditional customs such as early marriage, poverty, and the shortage of schools especially for female in countryside and this factor makes fathers prefer education of males than females. In most cases, females prefer the study of arts and literatures, while males prefer the study of sciences & technology, and this makes females in a situation by which she cannot compete with males in the labour market.

The rate of joining the primary education had registered in 2010 and 2011, a noticeable increase in comparison with the 1990's amounted to 96% for males and 87% for females in 2010. However the rate of joining the secondary education has not been improved, especially for females in countryside, which amounted to 34.3% compared to 52.4% in the city (i.e. in variation amounted to 18.5%). With regard to joining the academic education, the rate was increased after 2003, especially after expanding the extent of the private universities and the evening classes. It has been observed that the rate of females joining to universities amounted to 13.2%. The results showed that the rate of women, who have an academic degree or higher, at the age between 15 and 45 year, was 7.6% as per I-WISH survey⁵.

Among the period between 2004 and 2008, the gap of joining the higher studies between males & females was 3% (male 26.7% and female 23.8%). Also the gap of joining the Higher education, the percent of female was still low in the higher education 38% for the year between 2007 and 2008, and the percentage of female to male in the higher education is 38%, it means for 100 males there are 38 females in the higher education level. Moreover the indicators referred to the percentage between males and females in the primary education have been narrowed and amounted to 8.9.⁶ However the gap of joining the secondary education between the two genders was great,

⁵ I-WISH survey is the survey conducted by CSO in 2011 in order to explore the health and social status of Iraqi women

⁶ This is the percentage of female to male not net enrollment rate in 2010

amounted to 10.6%⁷, due to the unavailability of legislations & laws which oblige to the family to allow their daughters to join the secondary education.

In the higher education stage, the indicator of equivalence between the two genders was raised from 0.51% in the academic year 1990-1991 and to be 0.83% in the academic year 2010-2011.

With regard to illiteracy, the data mentions between 1997 and 2005 that Iraq had achieved a noticeable decline in the literacy rates amounted to 41%, especially for women. Illiteracy rate is still going up among the population as per IKN (Iraq Knowledge Network) survey for the year 2011, and amounted to 15.9% at the group of 12-19 years old, which is more in the group of 20-29 years old and the group of 30-39 years old and amounted to 20-21%. Illiteracy rate at the males' group of 50 years old amounted to 31% while females illiteracy rate is higher than this rate.

While at the level of governorates, the higher rate reaches to 32.9% in Al-Muthana Governorate and be less in the other governorates until it reaches the minimum level in Baghdad governorate 11.9%. This rate becomes less in the city where amount to 16.6% and be doubled in the countryside and amount to 31.9%. There is clear variation in the type of positions between man & woman in the primary & secondary schools according to the current data; whether she was a teacher or headmaster or headmaster's assistant. The rate women who works as headmasters in the preliminary & secondary schools are less than the number of men since the academic year 1999-2000 till the academic year 2009-2010.

2. Woman & Health:

The average of total fertility:

The averages of woman's participation decrease and limit its participation in work forces if the averages of fertility increase. The increasing of number of children refers to family size growth, which in its role limits the ability of sustaining & teaching of the family. The total average of fertility amounted to 5.7 infants for each woman in 1997, but this average decreased to 4.3 infants in 2006. In countryside, the average of fertility rate was 5.1, which is regarded larger than the global average that is 2.6. The rate of births inside hospital in the city amounted to 70%, while in countryside amounted to 55.1%. This rate increases at the educated women (secondary or high education) which amounted to 76.6%, while at the uneducated women & housewives, this rate amounted to 46.8%, which refers to the role of education in increase in the health awareness of woman.

⁷ The same clarification mentioned in the footnote No. 2

In 2011, the results of (I WISH) survey of the health and social situations of Iraqi woman mentioned, that the women in countryside beget two births more than the women of city. The average of fertility rate is 4.9 at the women who had finished the primary education while this average retreated to 3.5 at the women who finished the secondary education and 2.9 at the women who finished higher education level. Iraq is regarded as the third state in Arabian homeland which has high fertility rate after Yemen and Palestine. Education has a great role to influence on average of fertility rate at women. In most cases, education delays age of woman's marriage, which grants her a best opportunity to enter the market of work, and obtain great information and ability in organizing the family. Consequently, the woman will be able to practice birth control.

The early marriage:

The early marriage is regarded as one of the fundamental factors that obstruct women to complete their study and deprives them from many opportunities to develop themselves. The percentage of women married at the age of 15 or older amounted to 62.6%, while the percentage of men married is amounted to 61.3%. The data mentions that the rate of married women in age of 15 to 49 in the age of begetting amounted to 62.3%, as per (I WISH) survey in 2011. The age's average of women at the first marriage was 23.5 years and 24 years for men in 2009, but in 2011 this average retreated to 22.4 years for women. With the increase in marriage among adolescents women, (where each five young women, there is one young woman marries at the age of not exceeding 19 years old), the averages of divorce among women at the age between 15 and 19 years old had increased, which refers to deterioration of the psychological and social situations of women and leads to opportunities loss in their lives.

The dependency and burden of child-care

The statistical data refers that half of Iraqi people are consumers and the rest are producers who should support themselves and the consumers. The rate of child dependency in countryside amounted to 95.2%, which is more than the rate of dependency in the city 72.8%, due to the increasing of fertility rate among women in countryside in comparison to women in city. The average size of Iraqi family is 6.1 members. Therefore, the burden will be increased on the woman's withers with regard to children's breeding and sustenance. This rate amounts to 14.7% among children in city whose ages are less than five years old, while in the countryside, it amounts to 16.3%.

The last results referred to the increase in rates of women headed family 11% in 2011.

Reproductive Health & family's planning

The increase in birth rate resulted from the supervision of specialized health staff, is regarded as one of the positive indicators in the field of maternity health, where the rate increased from 50% to 89% between the two years 1990 and 2006. The birth rate also increased inside the health institutions between the two years 2007 and 2008 from 62.3% to 64% which reflects an increase in the health awareness. The fifth visit⁸ of pregnant mother to the primary health care center amounted to the rate of 30% between the two years 2007 and 2008, while the objectived rate was 90%, which means that the gap is still great between the fact and what could be achieved within the period of 2009 to 2013 as per the strategy of Ministry of Health. One of the reasons of decrease in rate of pregnant women's visits to the clinic belongs to demographic changes due to the migration in the areas. The decrease in mortality rate had continued in the last two decades, especially child death. The number of infant deaths had decreased from 101 infant deaths in each 1,000 babies in 1999 to 35 infant deaths in each 1,000 newborn babies in 2008. The child mortality forms most of children's deaths, who less than five years old. The number of child death had decreased from 122 out of 1,000 children in 1999 to 41 in 2006, and reached to 29 in 2008. The child mortality rate formed 85% of the children's deaths, who less than five years old. These results displayed that the babies' deaths averages in Iraq are the highest comparing to the neighboring countries. The highest children's deaths average was in Salahaddin Governorate (higher than national average) while the lowest one was in Kirkuk governorate (nearly half of national average). The children's deaths average of males is more than in the female's average, while the difference between country and the region was high. The child mortality rate of the uneducated mothers is higher than the child mortality rate of mothers who obtained preliminary degree or higher than that. The decreasing of rate of child deaths, which means that child die before five years old, had continued in Iraq since 1990 and amounted to 62 for each 1,000 newborns. In 2006, it decreased to 41, and reached to 35 for each 1,000 newborns in 2007 and 34 for each 1,000 newborns in 2008. Despite the continual decrease, this rate is still too high in comparison to other Arabian countries.

⁸ One of follow up health condition checks for pregnant women

In respect of mother's deaths, which are the deaths resulting from pregnancy & childbirth, the rate of deaths had retreated through the last two decades from 291 in 1999 to 193 and 184 for each one hundred thousand newborns among the two years 2004 & 2006 respectively. The multi-indicators aciform survey for the year 2006 clarified that 29% of them had suffered from more than one abortion case, and 7% of them had informed the cases of dead newborns. According to areas, the highest rates were in Kurdistan Region (31% abortion cases and 10% infant death), while in the rest of country amounted to (29% abortion cases and 6% infant death). The reduction in the average of maternal mortality rate is regarded as one of the MDG's. In Iraq, the average of maternal death amounted to 117 cases for each 100,000 births in 1990, and had decreased to 84 in 2006.

In 2008, the number of cancer patients was estimated to 7,591 as women case. The rate of increase between the 1990' and the above mentioned year is estimated to 78.2% due to spreading of radiations, cancerous diseases, lack of health care & awareness, and negligence of health aspect in that time. The breast cancer occupies the first rank with rate of 34% from the infected cases by cancer which are registered at the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

3. Woman in Agriculture:

The agriculture used to be a forming source of living for 64% of Iraqi people in the 1940's and 1950's. However this rate had decreased to 28.5% in the middle of 1990's and returned back to 40% in 1997. The Iraqi countryside data shows the increase of dependency to women in the agricultural work. In 2000, the rate of women who worked in agriculture reached 50% from the total workers in agriculture. It is expected that this rate will be increased to 59% as per the international food & agriculture organization data, and that means that the women became the main work force in this field. The Iraqi countryside suffers from poor services, infrastructures, and low standard of living. Therefore, any radical reform will have a positive result in the rural & urban sectors, represented by stability of rural work force in the agricultural sector and alleviation of poverty in countryside in return for liberty of cities from the economic, social and service pressures for the immigrants from countryside.

4. Woman and Economic Activity:

As commonly known, working age is between 15 and 64 years old, which represents the available work force in a society, yet it does not share the entire economic activity that made the actual & shared work force less

than the available work force due to dedication to study, cases of illness, asthenia, or dedication to household works by females.

The level of work varies according to the economic sectors. It has been noticed that 49.6% of the workers activities are in the commercial sector, then the service sector with rate of 17.4% and finally the agriculture sector with rate of 16.4%. However this distribution varies among males and females. The females prefer the service and agriculture sectors since it is guaranteed or protected by the state and the public sector and surrounded by the family protection in the agriculture sector. The female workers in the mentioned two sectors concentrate on the ages between 15 and 29.

The data refers that, nearly half of female workers work for the family and 36% of them work for the governmental sector, while 11% of them work in the private sector. Contrary to that, we notice that the males prefer working in the private sector where 42% of them work, while 23% of them work in the governmental sector and 17.5% of them work for the family. The rate of males, who prefer to work for their own account, amounted to triple to females (15% for males and 5% for females). Working place is regarded as an important factor for females. We notice that three-quarter of female prefers working in their residential areas or nearby.

The challenges Iraqi women face:

- Increase in number of uneducated women in countryside and city, yet it noticeably increases in rural area
- Weakness of women's awareness to demand their rights, even if they realize that.
- Stereotype of women getting married before study or work in the future, is attributed from the family pattern of upbringing.
- The traditional and cultural factor, resting on concept of discrimination against woman, has great impact, which prevents them from completing her study.
- Decline in the number of female students enrolling education, especially at the poor families.
- The operations of immigration & coercive dislodgement led to segregate woman inside her house as well as burdens, which she endures due to the exceptional circumstances.
- Imposing of values systems & social traditions on women, which led to restrict them to participate in work due to the male culture.

- Lower women's educational level, reduce opportunities in the political participation, and double the burden and pressure on their shoulders at the house and work.
- Women are still prisoners of an inactive culture which leads to restrict their roles in society and makes them playing sub-roles.
- In most cases, this stereotype spreads out and roots in society in general, especially in the rural societies.
- The cultural frames still restrict the roles of males and females and deepen the image of discrimination between both of them, despite entering the modernity with all its different manifestations.
- Despite women's participation in the public life, they are not granted independency and equal to males.
- The Iraqi women are still not finding a refuge for them within the legislative and political institutions, which are dominated by males. Moreover, women are not finding the real and effective participation in most of the legislative, judicial and executive institutions.

Fourth: Ministries and organizations related to women issue:

- Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs/ General Secretariat of Ministerial Council
- Woman's Care Office/ General Secretariat of Ministerial Council
- Ministry of Health/ The primary health care office
- Ministry of Human Rights
- Ministry of Youths & Sport
- Divans of Endowments
- Council of Governorates
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Higher Education & scientific Research
- Ministry of Immigration & immigrants
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Labor & social Insurance
- Ministry of Planning/ The central body for statistics
- Ministry of Planning/ The human development office
- The civil society organizations relevant to woman & her issues

Fifth: List of Reports & Reference Relevant to Gender

1. The central body for statistics (Ministry of Planning): The national indicators to watch the developmental aims, 2009
2. The central body for statistics (Ministry of Planning): Woman & man in Iraq, issues & statistics, 2009
3. The central body for statistics (Ministry of Planning): The national survey for adolescences & youths / Towards national strategy for Iraqi youths, 2009
4. The central body for statistics (Ministry of Planning): Evaluation of gender's statistics in Iraq, 2009
5. The central body for statistics and the body of statistics in Kurdistan Region: The integral survey of the social & health situation for Iraqi women (I-WISH), 2011
6. The central body for statistics and the body of statistics in Kurdistan Region: Survey of the Iraqi Knowledge Net (IKN), 2011
7. The central body for statistics and the body of statistics in Kurdistan Region: Watching of women & children situations/ the Multi-Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS), 2006
8. The national committee of population policies: The national report of the Iraq's inhabitants situation, February 2011
9. Analytical report about facing of poverty in Iraq, 2007
10. Ministry of Planning with cooperation of Bayt Al-Hikma: The national report of mankind development situation, wisdom house, 2008
11. Ministry of Planning: The national development plan 2010-2014,
12. Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs: The Iraqi woman & the bets of developmental advance in the 21st century,
13. Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs: The obligatory marriage & its impact on family & society,
14. Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs: The educational violence in the Iraqi educational system,
15. Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs: Sneaking away of female students,
16. Ministry of State for Woman's Affairs: The efforts of Iraqi government in supporting educational sector,
17. The role of Iraqi woman in the world peace
18. The violence of corrective educational system for the Iraqi examinations.

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